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DEC 06 2005**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings,
of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (original) A method of tracking hits for a network file comprising the steps
2 of:
3 receiving a request for said network file from a requesting
4 device;
5 sending said network file to said requesting device in response
6 to said request, said network file including an instruction to transmit an
7 indicator subsequent to said requesting device receiving said network file;
8 transmitting said indicator from said requesting device in
9 response to receiving said network file; and
10 processing said indicator to track said hits for said network file.

1 2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving said request includes
2 receiving said request over the global communications network referred to as
3 the Internet.

1 3. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of including a
2 network address of said requested network file within said indicator, so that
3 said indicator can be identified as corresponding to said requested network
4 file.

1 4. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of including a
2 network address of a remote processor within said instruction for navigating
3 said indicator from said requesting device over a network to said remote
4 processor, so that said indicator can be processed.

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1 5. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of executing
2 said instruction to transmit said indicator by an end-user browser at said
3 requesting device.

1 6. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of generating
2 said request for said network file at said requesting device.

1 7. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of embedding
2 said instruction within said network file, such that said instruction is
3 transparent to an end-user at said requesting device.

1 8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein processing said indicator
2 includes counting said indicator for updating a tally of said hits for said
3 network file.

1 9. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving said request for said
2 network file includes receiving said request at a proxy, said proxy having
3 cache memory to service said request when said cache memory includes a
4 cached copy of said requested network file, said cached copy having said
5 instruction for transmitting said indicator from said requesting device
6 subsequent to said requesting device receiving said cached copy.

1 10. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of providing
2 said instruction as programming that is compatible with JavaScript.

1 11. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of providing
2 said network file to include at least one of text information, image information,
3 audio information and video information.

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1 12. (currently amended) A method of counting a number of accesses for
2 cachable documents comprising the steps of:
3 embedding executable code in each of a plurality of said
4 cachable documents, said executable code ~~being associated with~~ including an
5 instruction triggering transmissions of count-inducing messages from ~~clients~~
6 client devices;
7 sending said cachable documents to said client devices ~~clients~~
8 in response to requests for said cachable documents received from any one
9 of a plurality of said ~~clients~~ client devices;
10 receiving said count-inducing messages transmitted from said
11 ~~clients~~ client devices as responses to execution of said executable code upon
12 reception of said cachable documents; and
13 counting said accesses on a basis of receiving said
14 count-inducing messages, said counting ~~being collective with respect to~~
15 thereby updating a tally of said accesses by said plurality of ~~clients~~ client
16 devices.

1 13. (currently amended) The method of claim 12 wherein receiving said
2 count-inducing messages includes receiving one of said count-inducing
3 messages for each said cachable document received by said ~~clients~~ client
4 devices.

1 14. (currently amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising a step of
2 storing said cachable documents in Web proxies, said Web proxies being in
3 communication with said ~~clients~~ client devices and at least one originating
4 server via the Internet, said Web proxies being configured to store said
5 cachable documents that are downloads from said originating server.

1 15. (currently amended) The method of claim 14 further comprising a step of
2 implementing said executable code by browser software of said ~~clients~~ client
3 devices, such that said count-inducing messages are transmitted from said
4 ~~clients~~ client devices.

1 16. (original) The method of claim 14 further comprising a step of providing a
2 Universal Resource Locator (URL) of a processor in said executable code to
3 enable transmitting of said count-inducing messages from said browser
4 software to said processor, said processor being operationally associated with
5 said originating server.

1 17. (currently amended) A system for tracking hits over the Internet
2 comprising:
3 a store of a plurality of network files, each of said network files
4 having a command to initiate a transmission of an identifier from any of a
5 plurality of ~~clients~~ client devices upon a receipt of one of said network files by
6 said ~~clients~~ client devices;
7 programming accessible via each said ~~clients~~ client device, said
8 programming being configured to request said network files and to transmit
9 said identifier upon reception of one of said network files at said ~~clients~~ client
10 device; and
11 a file access counter responsive to receiving said identifiers from
12 ~~clients~~ client devices as a basis for counting transfers of said network files to
13 said ~~clients~~ client devices, said file access counter being configured such that
14 counting is ~~collective with respect to~~ updates a tally of said transfers of said
15 network files to said plurality of ~~clients~~ client devices.

1 18. (currently amended) The system of claim 17 wherein said command
2 includes programmable code embedded within each said network file, said
3 programmable code being configured to execute said transmissions of said
4 identifiers upon said receipt of said network files by said ~~clients~~ client devices.

1 19. (original) The system of claim 18 wherein said programmable code
2 includes an Internet address of said file access counter, said network files
3 including World Wide Web pages.

1 20. (original) The system of claim 17 wherein said network files include
2 cached copies of Internet files, said store of network files being a proxy Web
3 server.